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## Ag leaders present five-year plan to Beshear

By Gregory A. Hall  
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The Courier-Journal



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LEXINGTON, Ky. — Kentucky agricultural leaders presented a five-year strategic plan to Gov. Steve Beshear this morning at the Kentucky Press Association convention.

The plan calls for improved animal diagnostic centers, protecting the Agricultural Development Fund's 50 percent allocation of the state's tobacco

settlement money and moving \$15.8 million in annual debt payments for water and sewer projects from the fund to the state's general budget.

Beshear said he plans to move forward on some parts of the proposal, but some ideas cannot be accomplished immediately because of the state's tight budget picture. He will propose his budget to the state legislature Tuesday.

He did not rule out using some of the tobacco settlement money that normally is directed to agricultural development to pay for other programs in his budget proposal.

The state tobacco settlement payment is estimated at \$117 million, of which half normally goes toward agricultural development, including the water and sewer projects.

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